

## IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (currently amended) A network management system comprising a plurality of network devices operating in a coordinated manner and a management server managing said plurality of network devices, said management server comprising:

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means for generating a plurality of pieces of setup information based on predefined meta-level information to be used for said plurality of network devices on which settings are to be made, said plurality of pieces of setup information being generated to maintain consistency in operation of said plurality of network devices; and

means for confirming consistency of said setup information set up in said plurality of network devices,

wherein said meta-level information is information to be used as a source for generating setup information according to a predefined policy for operating said network devices in a coordinated manner.

2. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein said management server further comprises:

means for collecting setup information for each of said network devices;

means for generating meta-level information to be checked based on said collected setup information; and

means for checking said meta-level information to be checked with said

predefined meta-level information.

~~means for retrieving meta-level setup information from each of said plurality of pieces of setup information; and~~

~~means for retrieving said plurality of pieces of setup information set up in said plurality of network devices.~~

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3. (previously amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes tunneling setup information.

4. (previously amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein said network device is a firewall, and wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to access control for said firewall.

5. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said network ~~device~~devices is a server, and wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes an access privilege policy of said server.

6. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said network ~~device~~devices is a computer executing a network application periodically exchanging data, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to said network application.

7. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein a firewall is disposed between said management server and each of said network devices,

wherein said management server includes means for distributing routing means for routing settings from setup information for said firewall, and

wherein said distributed routing means includes means for setting up said setup information in said network device.

8. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 7, wherein said management server and said routing means includes means for performing mutual authentication and means for encrypting data.

Claim 9 (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A network management system having a plurality of network devices operating in a coordinated manner and a management server managing said plurality of network devices, said management server comprising:

means for generating a plurality of pieces of setup information based on predefined meta-level information that is referred to for causing said plurality of network devices to operate in a coordinated manner; and

means for distributing said plurality of pieces of setup information to each of said network devices,

wherein each of said plurality of setup information is for each of said plurality of network devices operating in a coordinated manner respectively and has no inconsistencies with each other as to operating of said network devices in a coordinated manner,

wherein said meta-level information is information to be used as a source for generating setup information according to a predefined policy for operating said network devices in a coordinated manner.

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11. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 10, further comprising:

means for collecting setup information for ~~a network device~~ each of said ~~plurality of~~ network devices;

means for generating meta-level information to be checked based on said collected setup information; and

means for checking said meta-level information to be checked with said predefined meta-level information.

12. (previously added) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes tunneling setup information.

13. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein each of said network device~~device~~devices is a firewall, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to access control for said firewall.

14. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein each of said network device~~device~~devices is a server, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes an access privilege policy of said server.


15. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein each of said network device~~device~~devices is a computer executing a network application periodically exchanging data, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to said network application.

16. (currently amended) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein a firewall is disposed between said management server and each of said network device~~device~~devices,

wherein said management server includes means for distributing routing means routing settings from setup information for said firewall, and

wherein said distributed routing means includes means for setting up said setup information in said network device.

 17. (previously added) A network management system according to claim 10, wherein said management server and said routing means include means for performing mutual authentication and means for encrypting data.

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